

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 03785 060618Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 MCT-01 /088 W  
-----028122 061314Z /47

R 061615Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1634  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF  
SUBJECT: PAC TERRORISM TRIAL

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3082; (B) PRETORIA 0784 OF 1977

1. SUMMARY: A SUCCESSION OF STATE WITNESSES CONTINUE TO PRESENT DAMAGING EVIDENCE AGAINST THE 18 PAC ACCUSED AT THEIR TRIAL IN BETHAL. MEANWHILE, 14 OF THE TERRORISM ACT ACCUSED ARE SUING THE SAG FOR ALLEGED TORTURE SUFFERED IN DETENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BETHAL (TRANSVAAL) TERRORISM ACT TRIAL OF 18 ALLEGED PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (PAC) MEMBERS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE SAG, RECRUITING PEOPLE FOR MILITARY TRAINING, AND FURTHERING THE AIMS OF THE BANNED PAC, HAS ADJOURNED UNTIL JULY 24TH. DEFENSE COUNSEL HAVE ESTIMATED THAT WHEN THE TRIAL RESUMES, THE STATE WILL NEED ABOUT SIX MORE WEEKS TO FINISH CALLING ITS TOTAL OF  
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PAGE 02     PRETOR 03785 060618Z

APPROXIMATELY 75 WITNESSES.

3. ACCORDING TO INFREQUENT PRESS REPORTS OF THE TRIAL, THE GIST OF LATEST STATE EVIDENCE HAS CONSISTED OF TESTIMONY THAT SOME OF THE ACCUSED PARTICIPATED IN TRAVEL TO BOTSWANA OR SWAZILAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF EITHER OBTAINING FUNDS OR SMUGGLING PEOPLE OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR

MILITARY TRAINING. ONE UNIDENTIFIED WITNESS, A FORMER ROBBER ISLAND PRISONER FOR 10 YEARS, REPORTEDLY TESTIFIED THAT THE PAC WAS ACTIVE ON THE ISLAND AND THAT ONE OF THE ACCUSED APPROACHED HIM AFTER HIS RELEASE AND SUGGESTED RECRUITING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO REVIVE THE PAC CELL IN WITBANK. AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE TRIAL, JUSTICE CURLEWIS ORDERED ONE OF THE ACCUSED, JOHN GANYA, REMOVED FROM THE COURTROOM AFTER GANYA SCREAMED AT A WITNESS GANYA BELIEVED WAS LYING.

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS JIMMY KRUGER HAS BEEN SERVED WITH 14 SUMMONSES ON BEHALF OF THE PAC ACCUSED WHO ARE DEMANDING A TOTAL OF RAND 156,000 (ONE RAND EQUALS DOLLAR 1.15) IN DAMAGES FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE DETAINED UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE TERRORISM ACT. THE SUMMONSES ALLEGED THAT THE SECURITY POLICE REPEATEDLY ASSAULTED THE 14, IN ONE CASE WHILE THE DETAINEE WAS SUSPENDED FROM A BROOMSTICK, IN ADDITION TO USING ELECTRICAL SHOCKS, HAVING DETAINEES STAND FOR SEVERAL DAYS WHILE TIED TO AN IRON BAR OVERHEAD, FORCING THEM TO STAND FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT SLEEP OR FOOD, AND INTIMIDATING THEM BY USE OF FIREARMS AND THREATS OF BEING THROWN OUT OF A WINDOW. THE LARGEST SINGLE CLAIM (R25,000) WAS LODGED BY JOHNSON NYATHI, WHO IS ONE OF THE FEW SOUTH AFRICANS WHO HAVE LIVED TO CHARGE THAT THE SECURITY POLICE THREW HIM OUT OF A WINDOW.

(SEE REFTEL B).

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PAGE 03     PRETOR 03785 060618Z

5. COMMENT: THE PAC TRIAL APPEARS TO BE GOING POORLY FOR THE ACCUSED. DEFENSE ADVOCATE HARRY PITMAN TOLD EMBOFF ON JULY 4 THAT THE STATE WITNESSES APPEAR EAGER TO TESTIFY AGAINST THE ACCUSED AND THEIR EVIDENCE TO DATE IS "VERY BAD." PITMAN BELIEVED THAT THE "IN CAMERA" NATURE OF THE TRIAL AND THE REMOTE LOCATION OF BETHAL HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WITNESSES INCLINATION TO TESTIFY. PITMAN SAID THE PAC 18 ARE BOTH SURPRISED AND DEPRESSED OVER THE VOLUME AND NATURE OF DAMAGING TESTIMONY FROM PEOPLE THEY ONCE TRUSTED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS, TERRORISTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR03785  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PRETORIA 3082, 77 PRETORIA 784  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** PAC TERRORISM TRIAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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